

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Harris County Animal Shelter to Have a New Facility,
New Name in 2020**

HCAS Launches Paver Fundraiser to Support Shelter Pets

HOUSTON - Harris County Animal Shelter (HCAS) will have a new facility and a new name in 2020. To commemorate this occasion, the shelter is launching a paver fundraiser to support its shelter pets and additional projects for the new facility.

Made possible in part by a \$24 million bond proposal passed by voters in 2015, the new **Harris County Pets Resource Center** will open later this year and replace the current building on the same grounds at 612 Canino Road in Houston. The new center will comfortably house 525 pets - more than double the amount of the current facility -- and provide extended services and resources to the community.

Other improved amenities of the Harris County Pets Resource Center include:

- A new pet wellness clinic that will allow expansion of veterinary services to pets;
- Indoor/outdoor kennel runs for dogs;
- Cat condos with sleeping and eating areas, separate from the litter box area;
- Isolation and quarantine areas for pets with, or exposed to, contagious diseases;
- Separate entrances and lobbies for adoptions, admissions, and the wellness clinic;
- Get-acquainted areas to allow potential adopters to interact with dogs and cats;
- A public education/meeting building;
- A four-section dog park and pavilion; and
- No recirculation of air in the animal housing rooms, critical for controlling disease and maintaining the health of the animals.

"We are looking forward to moving into the new facility, which will enable us to expand our capacity to serve the community," said Michael White, DVM, MS, director of Veterinary Public Health, a division of Harris County Public Health. "The new resource center will be an attractive, public-friendly facility where residents will have more opportunities to interact with our pets. The new resource center will allow us to care for more animals. In addition, the separate entrances and lobbies for adoptions, admissions, and the wellness clinic will allow an increased efficiency in assisting our visitors."

In preparation for the center's opening, the new name, **Harris County Pets**, will be used to refer to the services, programs and resources currently being offered and eventually the new facility and additional services.

Brick Paver Fundraiser to Support Animals at New Resource Center

Residents will have the opportunity to honor or memorialize a special pet or person by donating a personalized paver for the new center. The fundraiser will support future pets by funding enrichment projects for the new facility.

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Pavers are available in different sizes, styles and costs:

- **Clay Pavers:** Available in 4"x8" (\$100 each) or 8"x8" (\$200 each), these pavers will be placed in the designated paver walkways to serve as a reminder of the impact a person has made in the community and to animals of Harris County Pets.
- **Photoetched pavers:** Available in 8"x8" (\$500 each) and 16"x16" (\$1,000 each), these pavers will be displayed in and around the shelter at various locations. The photoetched paver purchase includes an invitation to attend a small unveiling ceremony at the new center and a photo opportunity.

People can purchase a paver before March 1 to take advantage of early discounted rates.

For more information or to make a purchase, visit www.CountyPets.com.

About Harris County Public Health Division of Veterinary Public Health (VPH)

*Veterinary Public Health, a division of Harris County Public Health, provides veterinary care and finds forever homes for homeless shelter pets, a pet wellness clinic for the public, zoonotic disease surveillance, responsible pet ownership education, as well as animal control services in neighborhoods throughout unincorporated Harris County and certain municipalities within Harris County. VPH manages the operation of the Harris County Animal Shelter, which will transition to the new name of **Harris County Pets Resource Center** with the opening of the new facility in 2020. Visit Harris County Pets at www.CountyPets.com.*